

Hermiston Herald wins General Excellence award

By JADE MCDOWELL
NEWS EDITOR

The *Hermiston Herald* took home the top prize for newspapers in its size category in the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association's annual Better Newspapers Contest.

Contest results for 2020 were announced Sept. 29, including the *Herald's* first place General Excellence award. Entries were from the 2019 calendar year.

The *Herald* placed first over newspapers in size category D, while the *Hood River News* came in second and the *Newport News-Times* came in third. The *East Oregonian* also took home the General Excellence award for its size category, placing first for the ninth time in 10 years.

Andrew Cutler, managing editor of the *East Oregonian* and publisher for several of EO Media Group's newspapers, said having both the *Herald* and the *EO* win General Excel-



The *Hermiston Herald* took home an Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association prize for reporting on the fire at Funland Playground on May 10, 2019.

lence in the same year is "quite an achievement."

— and the entire EO/HH staff — work tirelessly to bring Umatilla and Mor-

row counties accurate and timely information," he said. "The Oregon Newspapers Publishers Association allows our reporters the

opportunity to compete for the top awards in the state. They've done phenomenal work over the last 12 months. I couldn't be more proud of our institution."

In addition to General Excellence, the *Hermiston Herald* and *East Oregonian* also won several individual awards in the contest, which covered the 2019 calendar year and saw 976 entries in 33 categories from 31 Oregon newspapers and was judged by a panel of editors and publishers from newspapers around the country.

For the *Herald*, editor Jade McDowell's article "What's the Holdup?" about local businesses that saw long delays for construction projects won second place for Best Coverage of Business and Economic News.

"From the Ashes," McDowell's article about the fire that burned down Funland Playground, placed third for Best Spot News.

Former *Herald* reporter Jayati Ramakrishnan's feature "Recovery takes priority at Hermiston facility" about Power House Treatment Center in Hermiston won second place for Best Spot News.

The *East Oregonian* staff won first place for Best Special Section, Best Enterprise Reporting and Best Spot News Coverage. Staff also took home second place prizes for Best Editorial Page, Best Feature Photo, Best Sports Photo, Best Government Coverage and Best Sports Story, and third place for Best Feature Photo.

"Our company is honored to be recognized for the quality of our newspapers by our peers in the newspaper industry," owner Kathryn Brown said. "Our editors and reporters work hard to shine a light on our communities and keep our readers well informed, and I'm grateful to work with such talented and dedicated journalists."

Umatilla welcomes three new businesses to town

By JADE MCDOWELL
NEWS EDITOR

Umatilla rolled out the red carpet — figuratively speaking — on Saturday, Oct. 3, for three new businesses.

Lite em Up BBQ, Fruteria Piqui and Evangeline Gift Shop share a newly renovated space at 1201 Sixth St. in Umatilla. The Umatilla Chamber of Commerce and City of Umatilla hosted a ribbon-cutting celebration for them on Saturday.

"It's unbelievable to have three businesses (open) all at once," City Manager David Stockdale said, noting he knew that a lot of "blood, sweat and tears" went into all three.

The building, formerly home to Honey Bunnz strip club, was purchased by Umatilla School District Superintendent Heidi Sipe and her husband Kyle Sipe in December 2019 in an effort to make sure a more family-friendly business moved in. Heidi said they bought the building "on faith" not knowing whether it would work out into a good investment.

She said they decided to offer up smaller spaces to multiple businesses to keep rent low and make starting a new business in Umatilla more affordable. They have since seen some setbacks with COVID-19 and ongoing road construction in front of the building, but now all three businesses

CONTACTS
Lite em Up BBQ: 541-656-6598
Fruteria Piqui: 541-314-4333
Evangeline Gift Shop: 541-720-0227

are fully open.

The Sipes own Evangeline Gift Shop, which features décor and accessories from multiple local artists in Umatilla, Irrigon and Hermiston.

The greeting cards sold at the shop are made by a retired Umatilla principal, and 100% of the proceeds go to Clara Brownell Middle School.

Fruteria Piqui, owned by Gerargo Mejia, offers smoothies and other fruit-based treats, inside the building or through a

drive-up window on the west side.

Lite em Up BBQ is run by Rikkilynn and Brian Starliper. For now, the BBQ restaurant only operates on Fridays and Saturdays, but Rikkilynn said they will continue to expand hours as the business grows.

She said they make everything from scratch, including the sides.

"We slow smoke everything and put a lot of time and love into what we offer," she said.



Mayor Mary Dedrick, second from left, speaks at the ribbon cutting for Lite em Up BBQ, Fruteria Piqui and Evangeline Gift Shop in Umatilla on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2020.

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Naturopathic Physician

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Naturopathic physicians employ a wide range of conventional and alternative tools that compassionately bring balance to the whole person. Dr Anton has extensive training in Homeopathy, diet, nutrition and prescription drug management. He enjoys when he can reduce prescription drug use as the patient's health improves. Dr Anton's expertise contributes to the health care team at Peterson Clinic.

Dr Trent Teegarden is certified in sports medicine and focuses on restoring health to those that have been injured in auto accidents, on the job, at home or at play. Dr Kris Peterson is a Chiropractic Internist with board certification in Neurofeedback (BCN) and board eligible in Neurology. Dr Kris provides care for complex internal and neurological disorders.

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Dr. Kris Peterson
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